



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

# Keith, Nugent give Illesheim memorable Memorial Day show

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

ILLESHEIM, Germany — There were no "Angry Americans" in Illesheim as rocker Ted Nugent and country giant Toby Keith unleashed a free Memorial Day concert to pay tribute to soldiers and their families.

About 7,000 people from military communities in Germany attended the concert. Many communities offered free bus transportation to the site.

Before the concert, hundreds of people had their photos taken with Keith and Nugent. In an effort to get all of the people in line in during the hourlong photo opportunity, groups of at least 10 people were rushed through. Digital photos will be available in about two weeks on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site — [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com) — according to Lisa Eichhorn, 235th Base Support

Battalion spokeswoman.

Still, some who hoped to have their photo taken were turned away as time ran out.

"I was the first one in the group they had to turn away," said Joellen Arthur, from Schweinfurt. "I'm leaving for the States in a couple days and it was disappointing."

However, Arthur said she expected the concert to make up for it.

*“[Troops are] hard-working people and want peace just like everybody else. But their mission is to make that peace.”*

**Toby Keith**  
Country singer

of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American).” Nugent performed “Cat Scratch Fever” and a screaming guitar version of the national anthem.

Early on Monday, Keith and Nugent visited Landstuhl Region-

al Medical Center and spoke with soldiers who had been injured in Iraq.

“There was one girl who was waiting to have surgeries done, and we couldn’t get her to smile,” Keith said. “But the reason she wasn’t smiling is that the doc wouldn’t release her to get back to her unit in Iraq.”

“It was an awful quiet ride on the way back [to Illesheim]. It was a very emotional time.”

Keith said he enjoys performing for the troops.

“They’re hard-working people and want peace just like everybody else,” he said. “But their mission is to make that peace.”

Nugent said meeting service-members was a wake-up call.

“It was a real powerful slap in the face,” he said. “The rest of the world is relaxed and comfortable, and they don’t even know why.”

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